



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
Washington, DC 20240

SEP 01 2016

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Dear Tribal Leader:

This letter is to provide information on the Housing Improvement Program's (HIP) Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 funding distribution and Data Call activities.

In 2016, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) initiated communications with the tribes regarding a transition into a rule change. The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs (AS-IA) conducted several listening and consultation sessions, before publishing a final rule on November 6, 2015, which took effect on December 10, 2015. The BIA, Office of Indian Services, Division of Human Services is currently providing training on the revised regulations.

The President's 2017 Budget request to Congress includes approximately \$8 Million for HIP. Funds will be available to federally recognized tribes and tribal organizations for use in providing program services to American Indian and Alaska Native applicants who meet the HIP eligibility criteria in 25 CFR Part 256, November 6, 2015.

The final HIP rule is an important aspect of this Administration's Tiwahe Initiative, which aims to promote the stability and security of Indian families. The goals of the new regulations are to align HIP with other Federal program income requirements and allow tribes flexibility to address housing needs for families with very low income. The new HIP rule addresses the extensive waiting lists and provides down payment assistance options for families who can obtain a mortgage loan from U.S. Department of Agriculture, Housing and Urban Development, or other programs.

The new HIP rule increases the amount of funding available under Categories A and B, as well as adds a new Category D for down payment assistance. The HIP rule allows funding for applicants who can obtain home site lease property, makes changes to the number of points available for certain selection criteria, and revise selection criteria. The revised HIP rule also provides an opportunity for younger families to compete for funding, considers veteran as a ranking factor for eligibility, and increases square footage limits to comply with Americans with Disabilities Act requirements. The final rule now requires tribal housing programs to keep applications on file for four years, rather than only annually.

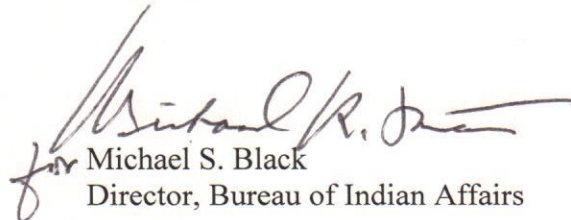
BIA Regional Offices will contact the tribes in their respective servicing area to provide a notice of funds and request the collection of HIP data. The collection of HIP applications is a continuous process throughout the year. The application data is due to the BIA Regional Offices by close of business December 16, 2016.

Tribes are allowed to include FY 2016 applicant data in the FY 2017 summary of eligibility; tribes are also encouraged to inform applicants to update the applicant eligibility criteria requirements under 25 CFR § 256.15 (b), or complete a new application. The eligibility requirement for HIP funding is 150% of the Department of Health and Human Services, Federal Poverty Income Guidelines, as published in the Federal Register on January 25, 2016.

Pertinent forms for FY 2017 (Tribal HIP Annual Performance Report Forms and the BIA Housing Assistance Application Form 6407) are available by contacting the BIA Regional Office or by downloading the reporting forms from the BIA website at <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OIS/HumanServices/HousingImprovementProgram/index.htm>

Tribes can contact their local BIA Agency, Regional Office, or Self-Governance representative for more information. If you have any additional questions, please contact Mr. Les Jensen, Housing Officer at (907) 586-7397 or via email: leslie.jensen@bia.gov.

Sincerely,


for Michael S. Black
Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs

Surnames for DCN: IA00005215

Subject: HIP Dear Tribal Leader Letter FY_2017

Addressee: IA-OIS - Human Services

Date: 08/30/2016

Surname: Evangeline Campbell

Office: OIS - Human Services

Title: Chief

Entered By: Evangeline Campbell

Date: 08/26/2016

Comments:

None

Attachments Surnamed:

Dear Tribal Leader HIP 2017.revised.emc 8.26wic.docx ver. 1 08/26/2016

Surname: Spike Bighorn

Office: OIS

Title: Associate Deputy Director - Indian Services

Entered By: Spike Bighorn

Date: 08/26/2016

Comments:

Surnamed with my edits in track changes

Attachments Surnamed:

IA5215 DTLL HIP 2017.revised.emc 8.26wic sbEdits 8 26 16.docx ver. 3 08/26/2016



Data Tracking System (DTS) Control Slip

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Date: 08/30/2016

DCN: IA00005215		ES No:
Orig Office: OIS - Human Services	Input Date: 08/26/2016	Addressee: OIS - Human Services, Division of Human Services
Due Date:	Signature Level: DBIA	
Doc Type: DTTL		
Subject: HIP Dear Tribal Leader Letter FY_2017		

Comments:

Typo - 1st page - corrected

Required Surnames:

Task Codes:

0 - Prepare Draft Reply	6 - Revise	13 - Advance Read
1 - Prepare Reply	7 - Obtain Additional Surnames	14 - File
2 - Appropriate Action	8 - See Comments	15 - For Your Information
3 - Surname	9 - Mail/Distribute	18 - Transfer
4 - Signature	10 - Finalize	19 - Decontrol
5 - Review/Comment	11 - Simultaneous Surnames	

Routing:

Assigned To	Action	Task Assigned Date	Task Completed Date
OIS	3 - Surname	08/26/2016	08/26/2016
DBIA	4 - Signature <i>MR. [Signature]</i>	08/26/2016	9/1/2016

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